

### County Health Officer Answers Questions About Poliomyelitis

Almost 200 cases of poliomyelitis have occurred in Los Angeles County so far this year, and the present rate of increase suggests that 1952 might be a year of high polio incidence. The answers to the following most frequently asked questions may be of interest to parents at this time, according to Dr. Roy O. Gilbert, county health officer.

1. What is poliomyelitis? It is a disease of the central nervous system caused by a virus which attacks the nerve cells. It probably enters the body through the nose or mouth.
2. What are the symptoms of polio? They are similar to those of a great many other diseases: headache, fever, sore throat, upset stomach, and dizziness. However, stiff neck, or back and sometimes difficulty in swallowing or breathing are very suggestive symptoms.
3. What is the polio season?

### Palos Verdes Hits Colliers Magazine Again

"Wonder Earth" of Palos Verdes Peninsula, is featured this week in Colliers magazine article of the same name. Written by Jack Beardwood, vice-president of the Palos Verdes Corp., owners of the Palos Verdes deposit, the article tells the story of diatomaceous earth, a 20,000,000 year old product mined almost exclusively in Southern California at Palos Verdes and Lompoc, north of Santa Barbara. The story describes varied uses of the product, such as pool cue chalk and the so-called antibiotic "wonder" drugs, and covers the geological history of the diatoms, telling of their ancient past and their amazing life cycle in which a single diatom could produce a million of its kind in one month. John Flora of Hermosa Beach illustrates the article with color photographs. He is the magazine's staff photographer, who teamed with Beardwood to do a color camera feature, "Chapel for Wayfarers," last month. Beardwood, former editor of Time and Life magazines, has previously published articles in American Magazine, Time, Life, Fortune, and Everybody's Digest. Another of his articles, on Mount Palomar and the Pala Indians, will appear soon in Sunset magazine.

### Attorneys Form South Bay Bar

Atty. William E. MacFaden of Redondo Beach was elected to serve as the first president of the South Bay District Bar Assoc. at an organizational meeting of the group this week. More than 30 members were present at the meeting. Elected to serve with MacFaden were Albert Isen, Torrance, vice-president; Irving Lessner, Torrance, recording secretary; John P. Berry, Hermosa Beach, corresponding secretary; Joseph C. Du Ross, Manhattan Beach, treasurer; and Auten F. Bush, Redondo Beach, sergeant-at-arms. Another meeting of the group has been slated for later this month, MacFaden said.

4. What is the age distribution of polio? Most reported cases occur in children between the ages of 5 and 9. However, the number of cases among older children and adults is increasing.
5. Does the disease always cause paralysis? Paralysis occurs in about half of the reported cases. Only 17 per cent result in serious or permanent crippling and 8 per cent in death. In Los Angeles County since 1949 the death rate has averaged 4 per cent.
6. Is it true that many people have had polio without knowing it? It is estimated that for every diagnosed case of polio there are hundreds of persons who have the virus in their system without being sick, and it is believed that they can spread the disease as readily as others who are seriously ill.
7. What about tonsil operations for children during the summer months? The American Medical Journal advises against nose and throat operations during periods of high polio incidence.
8. What about immunizations during the polio season? According to a study recently published in the American Medical Association Journal, the benefits derived from immunizations against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough far outweigh the questionable small increased chance of developing paralytic polio.
9. What preventive measures should parents observe? There are no hard and fast rules which will prevent children from contracting polio. However, authorities on the subject of polio advise that children should not be hard played, become over-tired by hard play, exercise, work, or travel, and that they should be encouraged to get adequate rest. They should also avoid fatigue or chilling from swimming too long in cold water. Since polio infection may enter the body through the mouth, it is important that children observe the sanitary practice of handwashing, especially before eating. It is of little value to prevent children from associating with their friends and acquaintances. However, authorities believe that it is unwise to needlessly expose a child to crowds made up of people from neighborhoods and towns where there might be a type of polio virus to which the child could be particularly susceptible. In case a child shows signs of illness he should be put to bed at once and a physician should be called if suspicious signs of polio develop. Early bed rest and prompt medical attention may lessen the crippling effects of polio. More detailed information on poliomyelitis may be obtained by writing to the Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 12.



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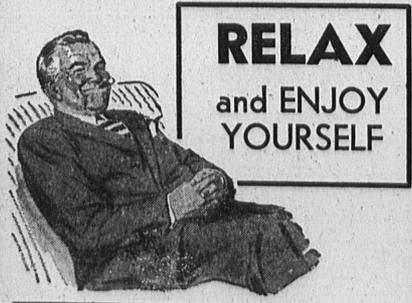
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